

## **Before 1945 and after: issues of discrimination of Asians in America**

Using the appendix in the book, discuss these questions or issues:

In 1776, the United States became a country. Fourteen years later, in 1790, the U.S. Congress passed a law which determined who could become citizens.

- What was determined?
- What does that decision say about the attitude at that time about race?
- How did this law of 1790 affect Japanese people in 1894?
- How do you think this law affects all people in the United States today?

Many Japanese immigrants lived and worked in California in agriculture. The law of 1894 stated that no Japanese immigrant could become a citizen of the US. In 1913, the state of California passed a law saying any immigrant who could not become a citizen could buy or rent land.

- Who do you think benefitted from this law?
- How do you think these laws affected people of other ethnicities?

What was the situation for Japanese immigrants and their citizen children during the 1920s?

- What was the cause of anger towards people of Japanese ancestry?

When the country of Japan bombed Hawaii in 1942, there were already many plans in place that quickly led to the imprisonment of 120,000 innocent Japanese-Americans.

- Name two ways that action was taken immediately after the bombing.
- How could these actions been organized so quickly?

In 1942, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066.

- What was this order?
- Just four months after 9066 was signed, between 110,000 and 120,000 Japanese-Americans were in incarceration, or relocation, camps. Who were these people? (See page 204)

- The United States was at war with Italy and Germany as well as Japan. Compare the numbers of people with German or Italian backgrounds who were imprisoned with the numbers of people with Japanese background who were imprisoned.